

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 SY-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 /079 W

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R 111015Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9263

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED GERMAN TECHNICIAN STATUS STILL UNKNOWN

REF: A) RANGOON 0612

B) BONN 3667

1. SUMMARY: DERIX, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE FRG EMBASSY INFORMED DCM MARCH 11 THAT 1) THE GUB DID NOT YET HAVE ANY FIRM INFO ON STATUS OF GERMAN AID TECHNICIAN WINDHEIM, WHO WAS SEIZED BY INSURGENTS EXACTLY ONE WEEK AGO TODAY AND 2) HE FELT GUB AUTHORITIES WERE DOING ALL POSSIBLE TO TRACK DOWN ASSAILANTS AND FREE WINDHEIM. END SUMMARY.

2. DERIX OFFERED THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFO: WINDHEIM WAS MOVING FROM NAMTU TO THE BAWDWIN MINES THROUGH THE NARROW PASS WHICH PROVIDES A PRINCIPAL FOOT ROAD BETWEEN THESE TWO PLACES, NAMTU BEING THE SMELTING SITE FOR THE ORE EXCAVATED FROM THE MINES. WINSHEIM AND BURMESE COUNTERPART WITH TWO BURMESE SOLDIERS IN THE LEAD WERE SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY FOUR INDIVIDUALS WHO PULLED AUTOMATIC RIFLES FROM THEIR LONGYIS AND SHOT THE SOLDIERS IN THE BACK. ONE DIED INSTANTLY, THE OTHER CRITICALLY WOUNDED REMAINS UNCONSCIOUS. THE BURMESE COUNTERPART SLIPPED OFF THE ROAD AND ESCAPED TO THE BAWDWIN CAMP WHERE HE ARRIVED 15 MINUTES
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LATER AND SET UP AN ALARM. WITHIN 40 MINUTES SOLDIERS FROM NAMTU

AND LASHIO AS WELL AS GUARDS AROUND THE BAWDWIN MINE AREA WERE COMBING THE ROUGH COUNTRYSIDE IN PURSUIT. DERIX SAID THAT A BAMBOO JUNGLE WAS 40 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT, AND SPECULATED THAT THE ASSAILANTS MAY HAVE MOVED WINDHEIM TO THE SAFETY OF THE JUNGLE WHERE HELICOPTER PATROL COULD NOT DETECT HIM. ONE NATIVE REPORTED SEEING 4 PERSONS ON HORSEBACK, ONE OF WHOM FITTED WINDHEIM'S DESCRIPTION.

3. BEYOND THE FOREGOING DERIX STATED THERE WAS NO NEWS. BURMESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE SPECULATED THAT POSSIBLY KIA, BCP OR SHAN INDIVIDUALS, ALL OF WHOM ARE IN THE AREA MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE PERPETRATORS; IF SO NO MOTIVE IS YET KNOWN.

4. DERIX HIMSELF FIRST SAW COL. TIN OO BY THE UNDIPLOMATIC ROUTE OF PRESENTING HIS CARD AT THE GATE OF HIS NEIGHBOR, TIN OO, WHO SAW HIM IMMEDIATELY AND ARRANGED HIS MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS U WIN. BONN IMMEDIATELY DIRECTED THE FRG MILITARY ATTACHE IN NEW DELHI TO PROCEED TO RANGOON WHERE HE HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF LIAISON WITH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, SPECIFICALLY WITH DDSI DEPUTY DIRECTOR. BONN ALSO DIRECTED AMBASSADOR TERFLOTH ON LEAVE, TO RETURN TO RANGOON IMMEDIATELY WHERE HE ARRIVED FRIDAY, MARCH 7, FOUR DAYS AHEAD OF HIS SCHEDULED RETURN. TERFLOTH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SEE THE PM BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, BUT HE IS SEEING MINISTER OF INDUSTRY MAUNG MAUNG KHA WHOM THE DEPUTY PREMIER ASSIGNED TO BE THE DIPLOMATIC CONTACT POINT.

5. DERIX STATED THAT THE FRG EMBASSY WAS SATISFIED THAT THE GUB WAS DOING ALL POSSIBLE; THE TERRAIN IS DIFFICULT TO COVER AND THERE IS ONLY ONE HELICOPTER AVAILABLE TO SCOUT THE AREA. THE BURMESE HAVE PROMISED TO PASS ON INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GERMAN MILATT AND DERIX ARE LEAVING MARCH 12 FOR AREA OF KIDNAPPING.

6. DERIX AGAIN THANKED DCM FOR THE ASSISTANCE RENDERED WHEN HE ASKED TO USE OUR CHANNELS TO GET A MESSAGE THROUGH TO BONN. THE MESSAGE ARRIVED ABOUT 6:30 IN THE EVENING. OFFICIALS AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR TERFLOTH, WERE STILL ON HAND. WHEN THE DCM STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRG EMBASSY MESSAGE HAD GOTTEN THROUGH SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM OUR EMBASSY, DERIX STATED THAT WAS NOT QUITE THE CASE. THAT ALL THEY HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOTTEN THROUGH WAS A TECHNICAL MESSAGE TO ALERT THAT AN EMERGENCY TELEX WAS FORTHCOMING.
OSBORN

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